48. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to mention:—

(a) whether it has not been brought to the attention of the Government by a member of the Excise Committee that the Superintendent of Excise Revenue has not sent a clearly typed copy of the memorandum submitted by him for the consideration and discussion of the Excise Committee ;

(b) whether he has not in his letter, dated 7th May 1927, requested the Diwan of Cochin to arrange for sending him a readable copy of it; and, if so,

(c) what action the Government has taken in this matter;

(d) whether the member had not requested the Chairman of the Committee and the Superintendent of Excise to furnish him a distinctly typed copy of it; and, if so,

(e) whether the replies of the Chairman and the Superintendent be printed and placed on the table, and whether he was supplied with a readable copy of it; and, if not, why it was not supplied ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The letter was replied to.

(d) Yes.

(e) A copy of the reply sent by the Superintendent is appended. (*Vide Appendix X.*) No fresh copy was sent, as the one already sent was not returned.

49. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Superintendent of Excise Revenue has not been directed by the Excise Committee to circulate among the members of the Committee some books and reports ;

(b) whether these were circulated to all the members of the Committee ;

(c) whether the book on '*Temperance in Madras, 1922*,' (by Mr. Strathie) has, by this time, been circulated to all the members ; and, if not,

(d) who is the member to whom this book has not been sent; and, why was it not sent to him, and whether it will soon be sent to him ;

(e) whether any of the members of the Committee requested the Superintendent of Excise Revenue to send him for perusal and return *the Administration Report* (containing the report of the Excise Department) of the last few years; and, if so, whether they were sent to him ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

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(d) The interpellating member himself. The book was not sent to him, because, when the other books and reports were sent, it was with the President who wanted it for reference in connection with the drafting of the report. After its receipt from the President, it was not sent, because, though the other books were sent to the member so long ago as 15th February 1927, they have not yet been returned, in spite of the requisitions made by the Superintendent on 14th May 1927 for their return. The Superintendent is keeping it with him, as he has no other books for reference. It will be sent to the member, as soon as the other books are received back.

(e) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative, and the second in the negative.

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*My letter dated 5th January 1927. When it was returned by the Excise Superintendent with the above remarks, I forwarded it to you through the Chairman of the Excise Committee with the above letter for taking the necessary action in the matter.

Letter dated 21st February 1927 from Mr. K. T. Mathew to the Diwan of Cochin through the Chairman of the Excise Committee.

"I have the honour to bring to your attention that I have not been supplied with a readable copy of the memorandum prepared by the Superintendent of Excise for the consideration of the members of the Excise Committee, in spite of the request I made to the Excise Superintendent to supply me with clearly typed copy of the momorandum, as I find it very difficult to read the copy of it sent to me. I request you to arrange for sending me a well-written or typed copy of the memorandum so that I may be able to do justice to the work entrusted to me as a member of the Committee; and in conclusion I may submit that if such small facilities, as is now requested for, are not afforded, I regret to point out that I do not think that I could do useful work as a member of the Excise Committee."

Letter dated 30th June 1927, P. No. 559/02, from the Ag. Secretary to the Diwan to Mr. K. T. Mathew.

"With reference to your letter, dated 7th May 1927, I am directed to inform you that the points raised therein and in the enclosures to your letter are for the Chairman of the Excise Committee to consider and dispose of."

APPENDIX IX.

(Vide answer to Question No. 47).

Letter, dated 8th Edavam 1102, from the Chairman of the Cochin Excise Committee to the Secretary to the Diwan of Cochin.

"With reference to your letter, R. O. C. No. 2427/1102, dated 14th May 1927, I have the honour to inform you that a letter was received by me from Mr. K. T. Mathew, but I did not forward it to the Diwan as such a letter need not have been sent through me. Prior to the receipt of that letter Mr. Mathew had sent another letter on the same subject to the Diwan direct and that had been forwarded to me for disposal. Subsequent to these Mr. Mathew personally delivered to me another letter, on the same subject, for transmission to the Diwan, and that was returned by me on the ground that he should send such letters to the Diwan direct, and he therefore took it back and addressed it to me changing the address. In the course of the conversation I believe—if my memory does not fail me—that I informed Mr. Mathew, that I did not forward the letter referred to in the reference with the reason thereof, and I did not think it therefore necessary to do anything further in the matter. The letter in question is preserved in my file."

APPENDIX X.

(Vide answer to Question No. 48).

Copy of letter C. No. 24/01, dated 19th Kanni 1102 sent to Mr. K. T. Mathew, B. A. & B. L., by the Superintendent of Excise Revenue.

'With reference to your card dated 29th September, acknowledging the receipt of a copy of the memorandum prepared by me, I have the honour to inform you that the copy was examined by me and found to be readable or else it would not have been sent to you. If, however, you still require a fresh copy, I shall be glad to supply you with one, provided you return the copy already sent."

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